

# “Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip”

An unsuitable term

G.Hartofilakidis

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Before the application of roentgenograms, Dupuytren, in 1826, observed that some new born infants presented with displacement of the head of the femur from the acetabulum

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He named the condition

**“ Congenital Dislocation of the Hip ”**

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Although the accuracy of the term became questionable, nonetheless it persisted causing considerable confusion in understanding and communication

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Thus, in following years the literature on  
pathogenesis and terminology of CDH  
is replete with  
contradiction and uncertainty

A variety of terminologies appeared describing the pathology of the deformity :

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- Congenital dislocation
- Congenital dysplasia
- Idiopathic infantile displacement
- Congenital hip disease
- Infantile displacement

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In 1989, Klisic, emphasized that congenital dislocation of the hip is a misleading term, when used for the total spectrum of infant hip deformities

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He recommended the use of the term :

**“Developmental Displacement of the Hip”**



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The change of the term  
“congenital” to “developmental”  
was surprisingly accepted by the  
majority of authors

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On the other hand, the wording of  
“displacement”  
was replaced with that of  
“dysplasia”

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A new term was established:

**“Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip”**

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From a deficient term  
“Congenital dislocation of the Hip”  
we ended up with the

**non specific and unsuitable term**

“Developmental dysplasia of the Hip”  
without convincing arguments for the  
change

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The term “Developmental” is not  
descriptive of the congenital  
nature of the deformity

“Developmental” has the meaning of  
evolving, gradually changing,  
progressing

“Dysplasia” bears the meaning of  
abnormally formed

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A possible explanation for that change:  
To avoid malpractice for late diagnosis

“Pediatrics” Vol 105, April 2000

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An agreed term is **needed** to cover the entire pathology of congenital hip deformities, and furthermore a generally accepted classification of the deformities is necessary

# Our suggestion

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1. To accept the general term :

**“Congenital Hip Disease”**

covering all types of congenital  
deformities of the hip joint



# Our suggestion

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## 2. To use the following classification

### **Infants**

(proposed by various authors)

- Dysplasia
- Subluxation
- Dislocation

### **Adults**

(Hartofilakidis et al)

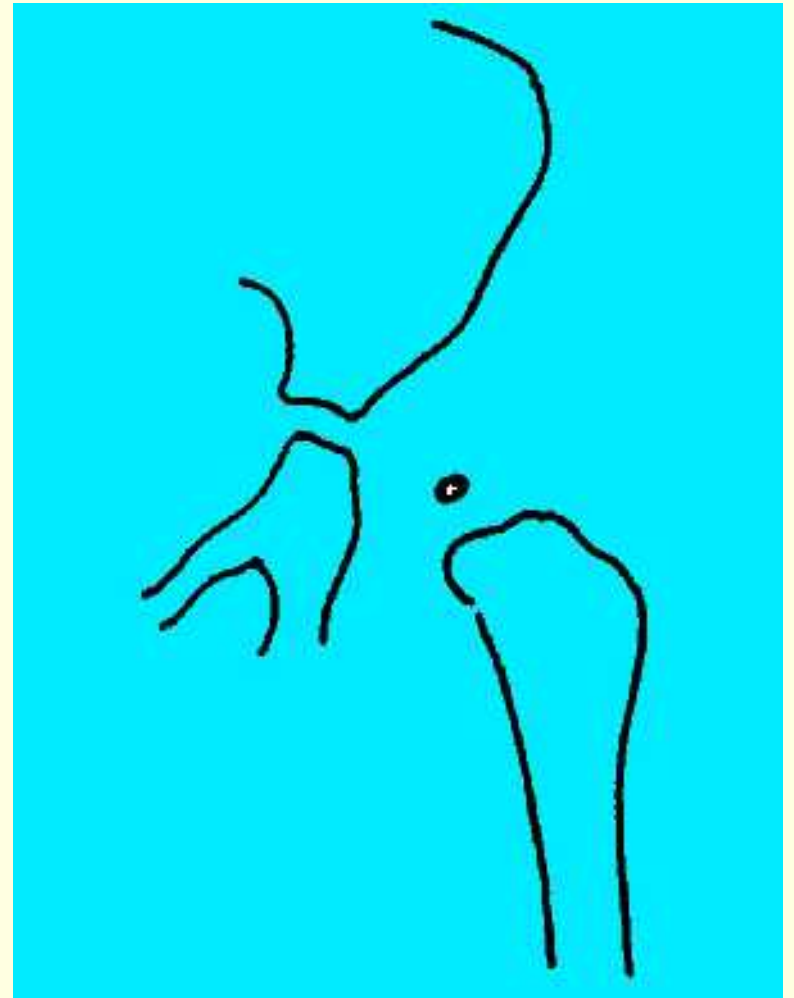
- Dysplasia
- Low dislocation
- High dislocation

# Congenital Hip Disease - Infants

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## Dysplasia

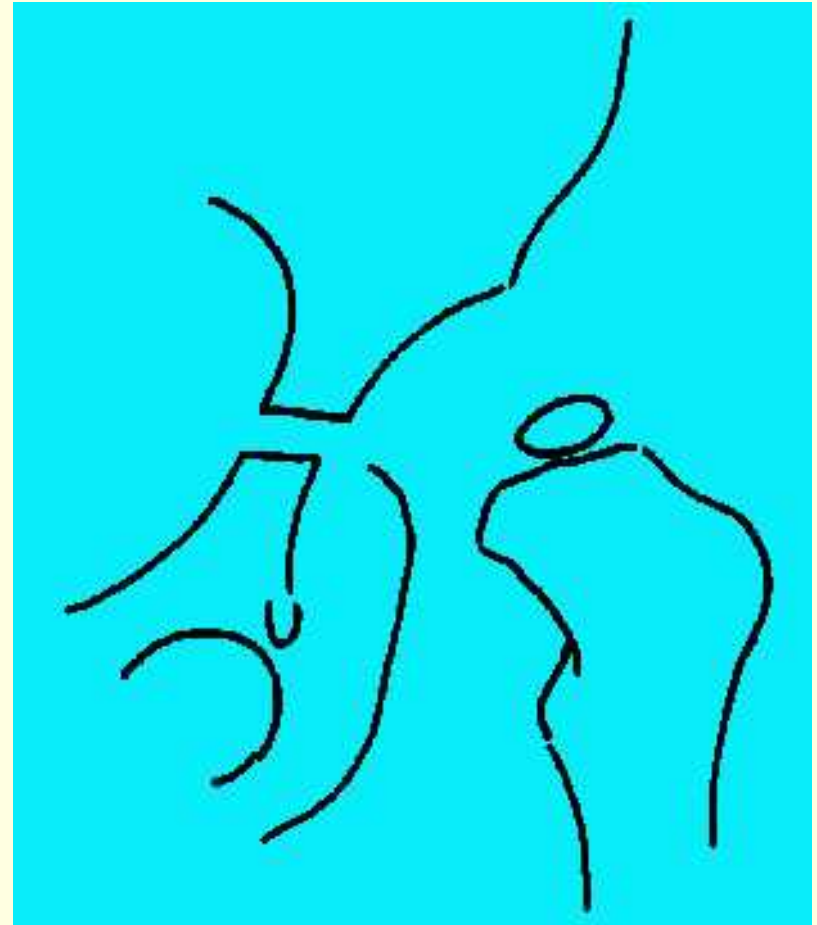
- Poor development acetabulum and femoral head
- Shenton's line intact



# Congenital Hip Disease - Infants

## Subluxation

- Proximal and lateral migration of the femoral head (without overpassing the upper edge of the acetabulum)
- Shenton's line broken

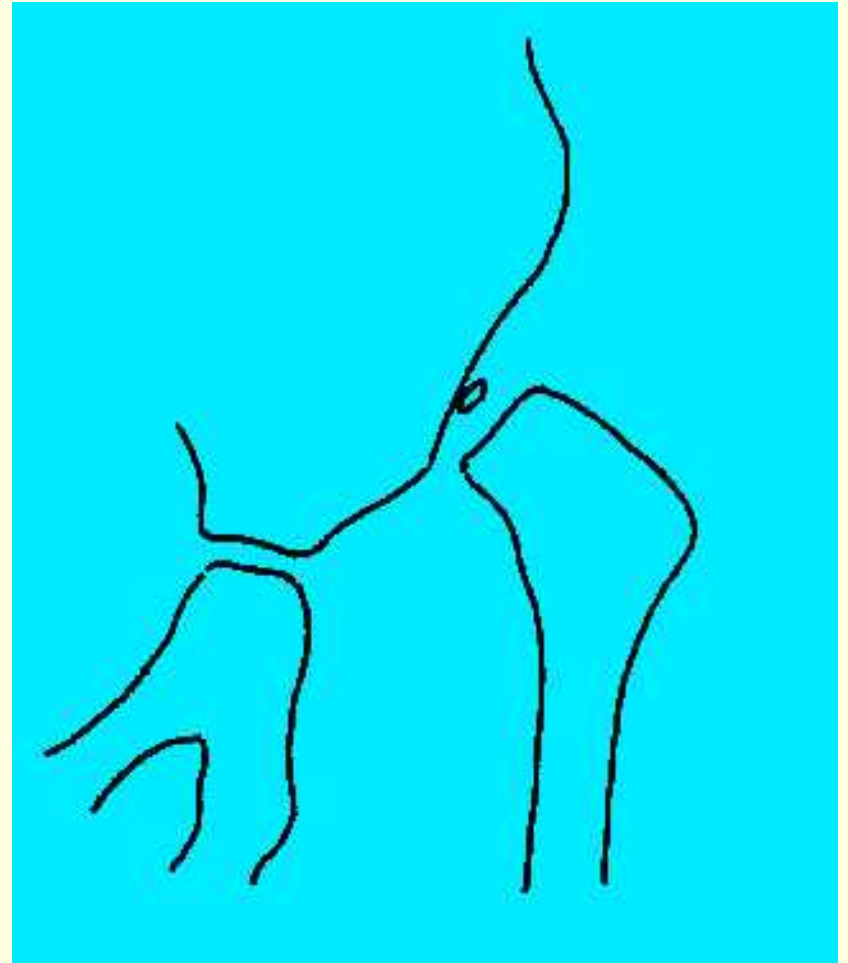


# Congenital Hip Disease - Infants

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## Dislocation

- Femoral head completely out of the acetabulum

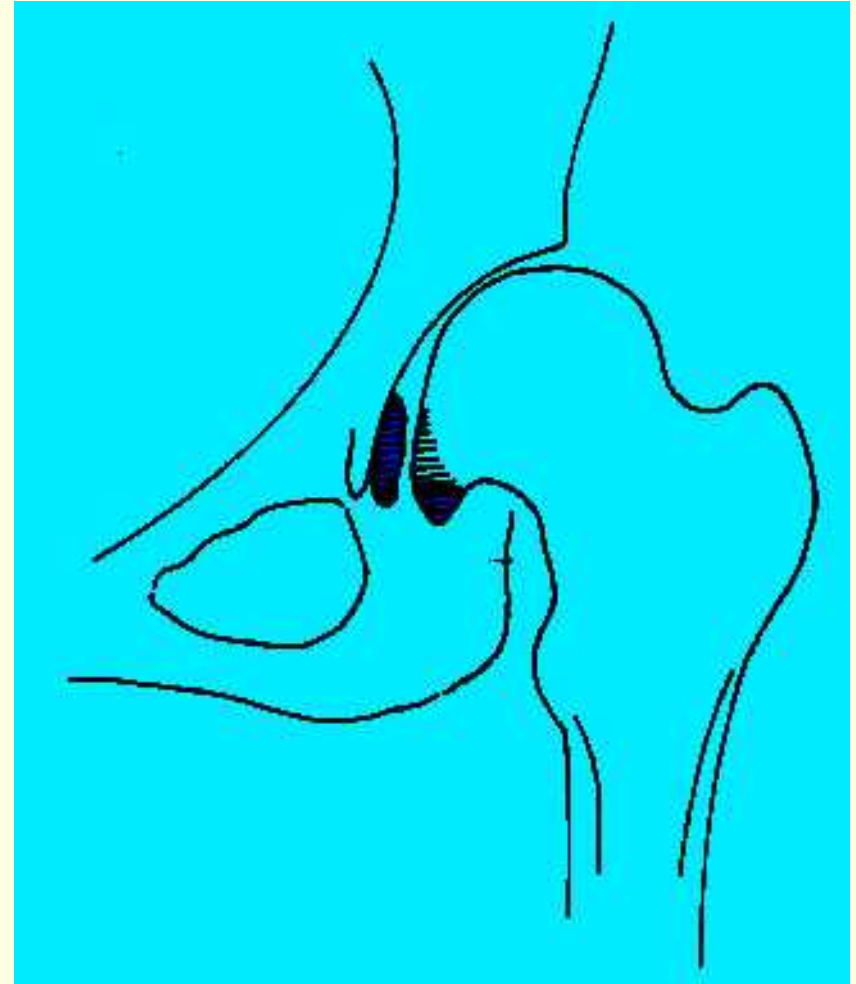


# Congenital Hip Disease - Adults

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## Dysplasia Type 1

- Femoral head articulates with the true acetabulum

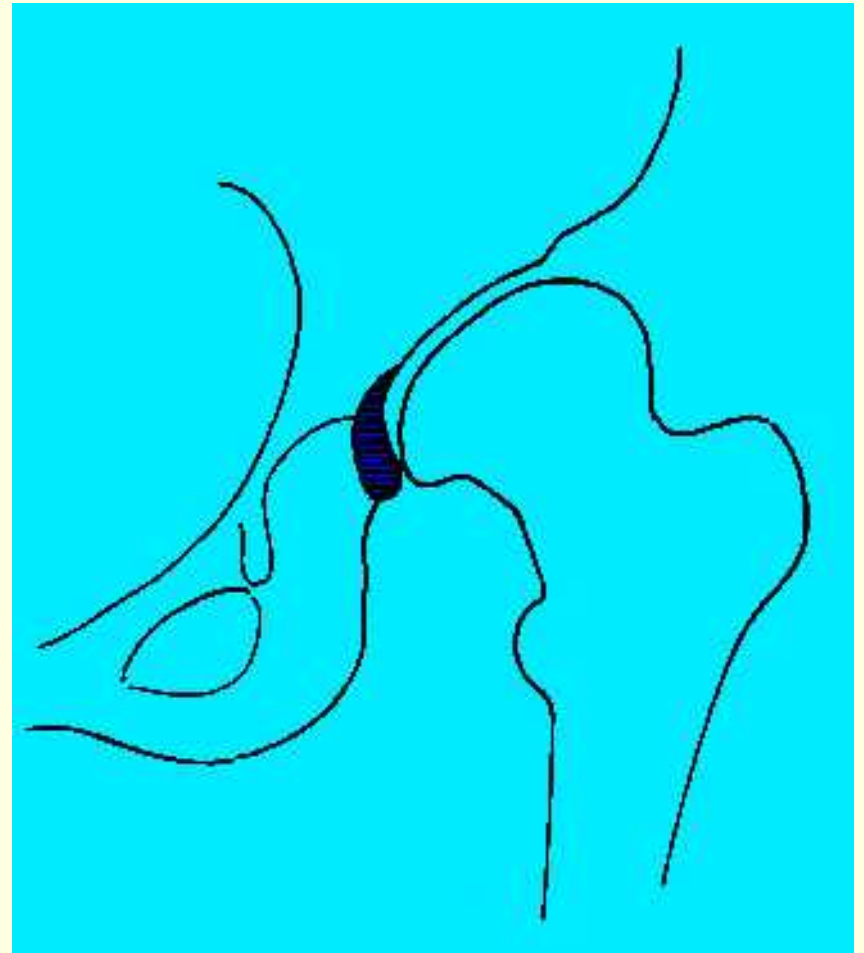


# Congenital Hip Disease - Adults

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## Low dislocation Type 2

- Femoral head articulates with a false acetabulum, partially covering the true acetabulum

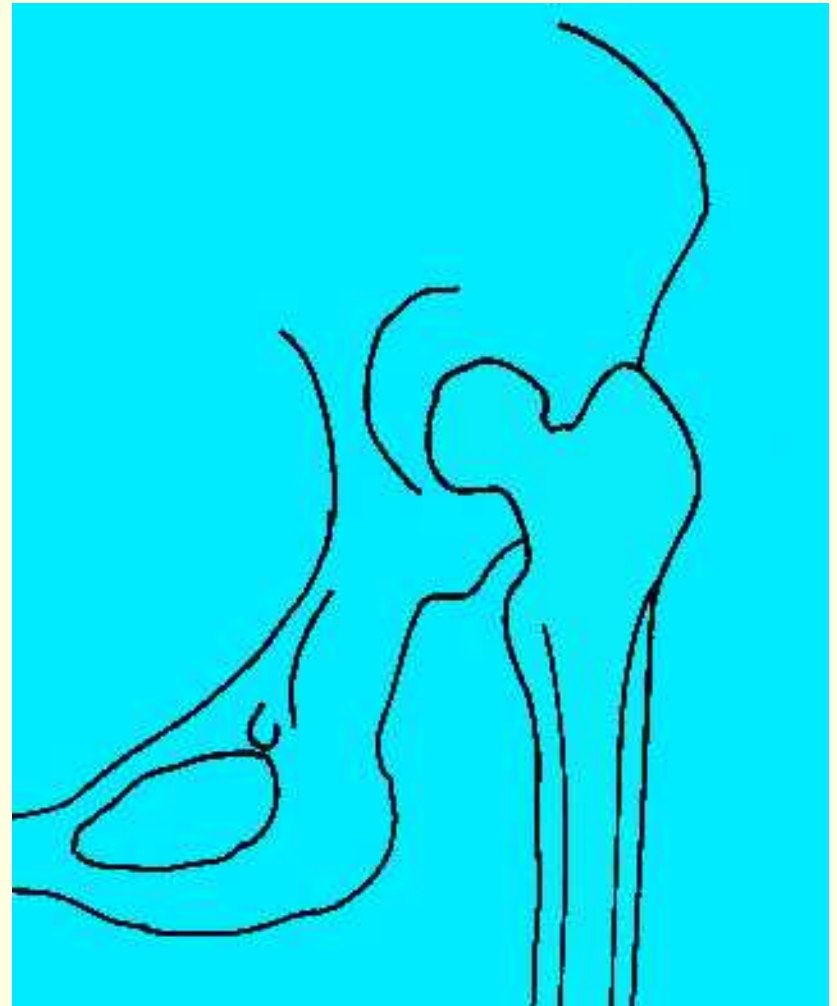


# Congenital Hip Disease - Adults

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## High dislocation Type 3

- Femoral head has migrated superiorly and posteriorly to the true acetabulum



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We strongly suggest:

Avoid the term

Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip

The term is unsuitable and misleading